
LAKE BERRYESSA VISITOR SERVICES PLANNING EFFORT

October 2000

An update on long-term planning efforts for the lake

Bulletin 1

What is the effort about?

Welcome to Bulletin 1 of the first Lake Berryessa Visitor Services Planning Effort. Reclamation has begun formal planning for the Lake Berryessa area to determine the type and level of facilities and services that are needed for future long-term operations. Some of the issues to be addressed will be:

- Day use needs
- Long-term and short-term recreational vehicle and trailer sites
- Marina development
- Consolidation or expansion of concessionaire operations
- New services development / construction
- Retention or removal of existing facilities
- Food and beverage service needs
- Overnight lodging facilities
- Support for water-based activities such as fishing, swimming, water-skiing, etc.
- Support for land-based activities such as camping, hiking, biking, etc.

Reclamation recognizes that public use needs are much different now than when the current concessionaire contracts were issued over 40 years ago. This plan, with the assistance of public input, will provide Reclamation with an early 'road map' in the development of prospectus packages for new concession contracts.

Concessionaires at Lake Berryessa and other Federal land management areas conduct their business on land owned by the Government and assigned to them for the uses prescribed in their contracts. They do not own nor do they have any rights for compensation for the land on which their businesses operate. They do, however, have certain rights and privileges on facilities they have developed.

Concession contracts normally run 5-30 years. The term length depends upon the assumed business risk and the level of necessary investment required of the concessionaire. It is unlikely that the next term of concession contracts will be as long as the current contract terms have been.

Why is it being done?

There are seven concessionaires authorized by Reclamation at Lake Berryessa to provide commercial support services to visitors. The concession contracts have been in effect since the late 1950's and will expire in 2008/2009. Reclamation is beginning to develop a plan to determine the level of changes needed for new contracts in 2009.

What's Inside

Scenes from around the lake
Lake Berryessa – facts & figures
Website information
What happens next?
Who's who
We want to hear from you

Scenes from the Lake

These photographs depict the vision the Bureaus of Reclamation and Land Management have for Lake Berryessa -- environmentally sound, clean, attractive, safe, and well-maintained.



More scenes from the Lake

These photos show how certain areas around Lake Berryessa look today with unauthorized construction, health and safety code violations, poorly maintained structures, and public lands being used as if they were private property.



Lake Berryessa – Facts & Figures

Lake Berryessa is a Federally-owned, manmade reservoir formed when the Bureau of Reclamation built Monticello Dam on Putah Creek in 1957 at a cost of \$47 million. The three primary purposes of Monticello Dam and Lake Berryessa are to provide water, flood control, and recreational opportunities.

Lake Berryessa's capacity is 1,602,000 acre-feet. The Morning Glory Spillway (Glory Hole) is the funnel-shaped outlet that allows water to bypass the dam when it reaches capacity. Monticello Dam is a constant center arch structure containing 326,000 cubic yards of concrete. It is 304 feet tall, 90 feet wide at its base, and spans 1,023 feet across Devil's Gate canyon.

Reclamation built the Monticello Hydroelectric Plant in 1983 for \$17 million. It generates about 52 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually, equivalent to 80,000 barrels of oil. It is operated by the Solano Irrigation District.

The Lake Berryessa Recreation Area is public land administered by Reclamation. Seven concessionaires have contracts with the Federal Government to provide recreation services: Lake Berryessa Marina Resort, Markley Cove Resort, Pleasure Cove Resort, Putah Creek Resort, Rancho Monticello Resort, Spanish Flat Resort, and Steele Park Resort. Together, the seven resorts provide:

- 1,500 long-term sites (most of which are occupied by privately-owned trailers)
- 688 short-term sites (RV parks and campsites) (of these, 398 are tent only)
- Marinas/boat ramps
- Toilet facilities, showers, laundry areas, and dump stations
- Restaurants, snack bars, picnic areas
- Stores, and bait and tackle shops.

The concession contracts, in place since the 1950's, will expire in 2008/2009. The contracts may be renewed, changed, or not renewed. All concessionaires will have the opportunity to submit prospectus packages well in advance of the contracts' expiration dates. The Bureaus of Reclamation and Land Management are collaborating on ways to improve the management of the lake, the recreation experiences of the public, and the health of the surrounding public/private lands.

Lake Berryessa has 165 miles of shoreline divided into five areas:

- I. High Density Recreation Areas (the concessionaires' resorts) - 15 miles of shoreline
 - II. General Outdoor Recreation Area (Oak Shores, Capell Cove, Smittle Creek, BSA Camp Berryessa, and North Camp(undeveloped)) - 12 miles of shoreline
 - III. Dispersed Recreation Areas (Markley Area, Olive Orchard/Capell Area, Government Point, Big Island, Small Island, Rancho Area, Berryessa Estates Area, Pope Creek Area, and North Shore Area) - 17 miles of shoreline
 - IV. Semi-Primitive Areas (Quail Ridge Area, Wragg Ridge Area, Steele/Capell Area, Spanish Flat/Sugarloaf Area, Schoolhouse Island, South Pope Creek Area, Putah Creek Area, and the Lake Berryessa Wildlife Area (Eastside) - 106 miles of shoreline
 - V. Restricted and Easement Areas (Monticello Dam, Headquarters Compound, Upper Putah Creek and Eticuera Creek) - 15 miles of shoreline.
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What Happens Next?

May 8 - September 30, 2000

- Field work and information collection
- Develop Website and newsletter

October 1, 2000 - January 31, 2001

- Develop written Draft Alternatives
- Informal public scoping

February 1 - April 30, 2001

- Feasibility Analysis of Draft Alternatives

May 1 - June 30, 2001

- Formal public scoping
- Identification of Draft Alternatives
- Newsletter mailings

July 1 - August 31, 2001

- Analysis of public comments
- Rewrite Alternatives (if needed)
- Agency determination of Preferred Alternative

September 1 - November 30, 2001

- Release of Draft Preferred Alternatives
- Newsletter mailings
- Collection and analysis of public comment

December 1, 2001 - February 28, 2002

- Develop Final Draft Alternatives
- Determine environmental clearances

March 1, 2002

- Release Final Approved Plan

2002 - 2009

- Begin implementing sections of the plan that are not tied to Concession Contracts
- Based upon agreement with concessionaires, may begin changes in concession operations

2009

- Remaining conditions of the Plan will be put into effect through new Concession Contracts

Website Information

You can find up-to-date information on activities related to the Lake Berryessa Visitor Services Planning Effort by logging on to:

<http://www.mp.usbr.gov/berryessa>

This website will allow you to:

- View current information on the effort
- Sign up to be included on the mailing list
- E-mail your comments, questions, or suggestions directly to the individuals working on the effort
- Learn about any activities being held in connection with the effort
- See photographs of the lake and the surrounding areas
- Link to related websites such as that of the Bureau of Land Management

Who's Who?

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